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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/276,042	03/25/1999	JOSEPH MICHAEL CHRISTIE	1098D	1578
28004	7590	11/02/2005	EXAMINER	
SPRINT 6391 SPRINT PARKWAY KSOPHT0101-Z2100 OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100			TIEU, BENNY QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2642	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/276,042

Applicant(s)

CHRISTIE ET AL.

Examiner

Benny Q. Tieu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request For Continued Examination

1. The request filed on September 16, 2005 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/276,042 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,698) in view of Seiderman (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,599) and further in view of Fleischer, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,680,446).

Regarding claim 7, Jang teaches a method including determining if the caller number should be checked in a validation table (allowing and denying tables Figs. 4A-4E). Note that if the caller number should be checked, checking the caller number in the validation tables to determine if the number should be allowed and if allowed processing the number (class A - class D, see column 6, lines 9-23). Note also that if one is considered class A, there are no restrictions and call is routed (column 6, line 13), this includes 1-800 calls. See also column 7, line 24. Jang differs from the claimed invention in that Jang starts with the class and utilizes the corresponding

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denying or blocking table to determine whether the call should be blocked or allowed by bypassing the validation of the called number. The claimed invention starts first with the denying or blocking table (if the call is not toll free) and utilizes the corresponding class to determine whether the call should be blocked or allowed by bypassing the validation of the called number. However, Seiderman teaches that a user is permitted to bypass the credit verification features of the system and directly call a predetermined telephone number or the 911 emergency operator (free call) (see column 9, lines 1-21). In addition, Fleischer, III et al. teach an advanced intelligent network screening that controls and limits access of outgoing calls from a private network, such as long distance phone calls terminating outside of the local service area of the network (see column 20, lines 34-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of step bypassing the credit verification features taught by Seiderman and the use of step limiting access of outgoing calls disclosed by Fleischer, III et al. as modified in Jang in order to easily provide whether a caller in a certain level to be able make a certain call.

Regarding claim 8, Jang teaches the claimed method as claimed except for the IAM. However, IAM is notoriously well known in the art as shown by Fleischer, III et al. as shown in Fig. 1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of IAM in the Jang method as this is the way things are done in an AIN network in order to provide a faster call set up.

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Conclusion

4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

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Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(571) 273-7490, (for informal or draft communications, please label

“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

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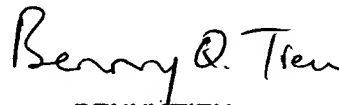
Alexandria, VA 22314

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benny Q. Tieu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7490. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 6:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



BENNYTIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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October 27, 2005